

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

October 2011

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Visit the ARRL's Web Site at <http://www.arrl.org>

Words from the President

Tom, W8JWN

If you've spent any time on the radio at all the past few weeks, you've noticed propagation on 10 and 12 meters to be outstanding! Europe and Asia are booming into my QTH in the morning and evening. 10 meters is especially hot. It seems like conditions are just like back in 2002. Cycle 24 is finally producing!

DX to look for during the next month: Tahiti(TX3T), Maldives(8Q7EJ), Central African Republic(TL0CW), Niue(ZK2V), Ivory Coast(TU2T), Tuvalu(T2T), and Nepal(9N0MD).

Don't forget that the club election is November 11th. Also, at that meeting, the Veterans Day operation will be discussed. Hopefully, we will have two radios available during the event. Of course, operators and set up people are needed. If you can't be at the meeting, please let me know if you will be available to operate and participate from November 10-12 at the U.P. Veterans Memorial site.

I finally decided to bite the bullet and trade my Alpha 99 for a new amp. I ordered an Alpha 8410 last week. The Alpha 99 was shipped to RF

Concepts on Monday the 24th. The new amp will be here on the 31st.of October. The 99 would go to FAULT on every band. It



Nate checks for visitors during a Veterans Day Operation from the past.

was very frustrating to jump in a pileup with the expectation of having at least 800 watts and get nothing out!!! My XYL said that, "Life was too short not to have your radio gear working properly" Isn't she a great lady!

Field Day results have been published. The Mich-A-Con ARC score was third in Michigan. Not bad with only 10 participants. Another U.P. club had 47 participants and used over 150 watts but scored below us. It must have been the bonus points that gave us a better score.

See you all at the next meeting.

73,

Tom W8JWN

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the October 11th, 2011 Meeting

President Tom Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary Report

The minutes of the September 13th meeting were read, corrected and approved.

Treasurer Report

Checks were written to: AT&T \$23.67

Balances as of October 1st, 2011:

Checking - \$78.09

Regular Savings - \$3,515.74 of which \$1,807.23 is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$921.10; \$72.00 was transferred from the repeater savings to checking.

Petty Cash - \$14.00

President Tom will submit an invoice (receipt) to Pete Schlitt for a bracket that he purchased for the Sheriff's Department antenna.

Repeater Report

President Tom discussed the needed feed line repairs with Rob Thomas during the meeting. Rob agreed to climb the tower and secure the feed line with tie straps before the snow flies. Burt Armbrust will assist.

ARES

The net has been meeting regularly every Thursday at 6:30pm on 146.850 repeater.

Old Business

The Florence County Fairgrounds will be looked at as a potential site for this year's Field Day.

Paul Schultz organized a two day CPR class which will be held Monday and Tuesday October 24th & 25th from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at MJ Electric, 2232 N. Pewabic St. Cost is free. RSVP ASAP if you're interested in attending to Paul at pauls@schultzequipment.com or call (906)396-7638. Class size is limited to 12.

President Tom detailed the antenna installation at the Sheriff's Department. The Hustler antenna and radials were installed but the SWR is too high on every band. Skip will contact DX Engineering to get the antenna tuning information. The 2 meter antenna was installed but the LMR 400 coax is about 20' too short and a connector needs to be installed. Pete Schlitt will get a ground rod. The TS2000 radio receives well but we have not attempted to transmit due to the antenna issues. Next Monday at 10:00 am will be another work bee to resolve these issues. A computer and monitor are needed which the county will not provide even though it's their responsibility.

November 11th-13th Veterans Day at Pine Mountain. Setup will be November 10th at 9:00 am. Tom will bring his radio but two more radios are needed. Operators will be Tom Martin, W8JWN, Rob Thomas, K9RJT, Jim Riverside, K8ABS, Burt Armbrust - ??, WB8EBS, Joe Ferris, KC9TQR and Scott Jarmusch, - ??, KA8TFF. Computers will be Tom Martin, W8JWN, Burt Armbrust - ??, WB8EBS and Paul Schultz, KD8KUF. All details will be finalized at our next club meeting which will be Tuesday November 8th which will also be election of officers. Food will be Burt Armbrust - ??, WB8EBS.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Club Patches are available from:
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
693 Cliff St
Quinnesec, Mi 49876
The patches are 3 inches in diameter and sell for \$3 each.
If ordering by mail please include a SASE along with your payment.



Submitted by Paul Schultz

<u>Attendees</u>	
Tom Martin, W8JWN - President	Red Maxwell, KC9KWS
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President	Dana Bey, KD8POR
Burt Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS - Treasurer	Jim Riverside, K8ABS
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF - Secretary	Gary Schafer, KYFMX
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR	Rob Thomas, K9RJT
Tom Heyboer, KC8TH	Kristina Anderson, KC9UHW

<i>Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for November 2011</i>						
<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
		1	2	3 ARES	4	5
6	7	8 Meeting	9	10 Vets Day Operation ARES	11 Vets Day Operation	12 Vets Day Operation
13	14	15	16	17 ARES	18	19 BREAK- FAST
20	21	22	23	24 ARES	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Club Activities:

ARES Nets are conducted at 6:30 PM Central Time every Thursday on our 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz.)

Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Dickinson County Library at 7:00 PM. Visitors and Prospective Members are always welcome.

Our Saturday Morning Breakfast is held on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM at the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Ave (US-2) in Iron Mountain.

Club Repeaters:

The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain (Elevation 1650 ft) in Iron Mountain, with tower and facilities provided by the Wisconsin Electric Power Co.

The range of the 2 meter repeater is about 40 miles under normal conditions, depending upon terrain. The 440 MHz repeater has a range of about 25 miles.

OUTPUT	OFFSET	PLTONE	CALLSIGN
146.850	MINUS	-	WA8FXQ
444.850	PLUS	100 Hz	WA8FXQ

Repeater Specifications:

The 146.85 repeater is a Melco Hi Pro (built from a kit in the 1970s) with 25 watts output. The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 ft.

V.E. TESTING:

11/05**Iron Mountain**: 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library(conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, (906) 396-5519 - 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802.

12/10 **Marquette**: 8:30am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00am) Marquette County Health Dept. Bldg,U.S. 41 just east of the Michigan State Police Post. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at 906 249-3837or e-mail: n8gba@chartermi.net.

Jan **Hancock**:9:00am eastern time, Zion Lutheran Church, 400 Ingot St, Hancock, Mi. Ingot street is located across from the Quincy hill lookout, just north of Hancock, Contact: Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 if you have questions.

Jan **Gladstone**: Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time:10:00 AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Dave Palmgren, N8DP, n8dp@dcars.org (906) 428-2271 Vec: ARRL/VECLocation: Gladstone City Hall Main Meeting Room 1100 Delta Ave Gladstone, Mi. 49837.

Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to give time to process applications. Testing applicants should bring the following items with them: Two pieces of I.D. one being a photo I.D., Original license and one clear copy of their license if applicable, Completed form 605 (one will be provided if you don't have one), pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$15.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change. Please contact the individual(s) listed to confirm date(s), location(s), etc. Note: If you have been assigned a FRN from the FCC you must use it on all forms rather than your SSN.

United States Early Radio History

from an email sent by:

Jim Rye (jimrye@up.net)

Jim sent this great link on early radio history in the United States, be sure to check it out!

<http://www.earlyradiohistory.us/index.html>

Solar Update

From:

The ARRL Letter for October 27th, 2011

Tad "There has to be an invisible Sun", Cook K7RA, reports: On Friday, October 21, the daily sunspot number broke another record for Solar Cycle 24 when it rose to 207. You have to look back to November 26, 2003 when it was two points higher - 209 -- to find a number at least as high. Last Thursday, the daily sunspot number was 195, another record until the following day.

The average daily sunspot number for the week was off by two points to 156.6, while the average daily solar flux rose nearly 8 points to 151.8.

Propagation on HF is quite exciting right now, with 10 meters opening up worldwide daily. The predicted solar flux is 130 on October 27-29, 125 on October 30-November 3, 120 on November 4-5, and then 125 and 130 for November 6-7 and 135 on November 8-10. Flux values for the near term are expected to peak at 165 on November 17-18.

The predicted planetary A index is 5, 7, 8 and 10 on October 27-30 and 5 on October 31-November 3, 8 on November 4-5 and 5 on November 6-10. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions October 28, unsettled October 29, quiet to unsettled October 30 and quiet October 31 through November 3. Look for more information on the ARRL website on Friday, October 28. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page:

<http://www.arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>

This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by The Police's *Invisible Sun*.

FCC Tightens BPL Interference Rules -- But Not By Enough

from:

The ARRL Letter for October 27, 2011

10/27/2011

On October 24, 2011, the FCC released the [***Second Report and Order***](#) in its proceeding -- now in its 9th year -- to adopt rules for Access Broadband over Power Line (**BPL**) systems. *The Second Report and Order* is the final step in the Commission's effort to comply with the [**directives**](#) of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which in April 2008 ordered the FCC to correct errors it had committed in the course of adopting rules in 2004. The Court acted in response to a *Petition for Review* filed by the ARRL.

In July 2009, the FCC issued a [***Request for Further Comment and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making***](#) in which it proposed slight modification of measurement standards for determining whether a BPL system is in compliance with the maximum allowable levels of radiated emissions. In response, the ARRL argued that coupled with a scientifically valid extrapolation factor for determining those levels, mandatory notching of the amateur bands to a level 35 dB below the general emission limit would reduce the likelihood of harmful interference to amateur stations to a level that would permit any remaining harmful

interference to be remedied on a case-by-case basis (see below). The ARRL noted that its request for mandatory notching simply reflected the best practices of the BPL industry.

In the *Second Report and Order*, the Commission decided not to adopt its own proposal and also declined to adopt the ARRL's request for mandatory notching. Instead, the Commission has increased the requirement for BPL systems to be able to notch frequency bands to at least 25 dB, an increase of 5 dB from the existing requirement of 20 dB. The Commission also made technical adjustments to its rules for determining the distance between a power line and a measurement antenna and for determining site-specific extrapolation factors.

"We were prepared to be disappointed, and we were," commented ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, after reviewing the 76 page *Second Report and Order*. "The increase in notch depth is a step in the right direction, but the value of the change is greatly diminished by the notches not being mandatory. The FCC acknowledges that a compliant BPL system will increase the noise floor below 30 MHz at distances of up to 400 meters from a power line, but characterizes that as 'a relatively short distance.' How many amateur stations are located more than a quarter-mile from the nearest power line?"

More than 17 pages of the *Second Report and Order* are devoted to defending the Commission's choice of a 40 dB/decade extrapolation factor for measuring emissions at distances other than 30 meters from the power line. "It was particularly disappointing to read that '...ARRL asserts that there is only one scientifically correct and valid answer of an extrapolation factor of 20 dB...,' Sumner said. "That is a gross mischaracterization of our position. Our argument was that the 40 dB/decade value chosen by the Commission was demonstrably inappropriate for BPL, which the FCC acknowledges does not behave as a point-source emitter. Lacking an unambiguous scientific basis for a single value that would be equally valid across the entire frequency range from 1.7 to 30 MHz, the Commission fell back on the single value that defies physics -- while at the same time acknowledging that '...ARRL is correct with regard to the physics of this issue.'"

One FCC statement with which the ARRL is in strong agreement occurs toward the end of the extrapolation factor discussion: "Whether the extrapolation factor is 20 dB or 40 dB or somewhere in between is far less important than the fact that harmful interference must be corrected under any circumstances." Unfortunately, Sumner observed, the FCC's deeds do not back up these words: "The Commission notes that there are not many interference complaints about BPL systems that are currently in operation, but inaccurately attributes that to the adequacy of its rules. In fact, it is the marketplace failure of Access BPL -- coupled with voluntary steps taken by the few system providers -- that are still in business that is responsible for this fortunate result." The [one interference complaint that the FCC acknowledges receiving](#) was filed by the ARRL on December 29, 2010, and which the Commission says was "...submitted *recently* [emphasis added] and is under investigation at this time." "A well documented interference complaint languishing for months is a perfect illustration of why mandatory notching is needed," Sumner said.

The *Second Report and Order* states that "...the BPL system database shows that BPL systems are currently operating in 125 ZIP codes across the United States." In fact, once non-existent ZIP codes are eliminated, there are 200 ZIP codes listed in the BPL system database. The FCC offers no explanation for why it has discounted this figure to 125, but neither figure reflects reality. "The BPL system database is filled with listings for 'paper' systems that were never deployed, systems that have been taken out of service and systems that are at some planning stage or are only offering service to customers within a small pilot area," Sumner said. "The FCC's own report on the status of Internet access services as of December 31,

2010 shows no more than 6000 customers nationwide receiving service via ‘power line and other’ connections, and about half of those appear to be ‘other.’ There is no reasonable explanation for why the Commission cites a flawed industry source for data when it possesses better data itself.

“One of the most puzzling sections of the *Second Report and Order* is that devoted to a discussion of the noise floor,” Sumner concluded. “The thrust of the Commission’s argument is that while natural and manmade radio noise is extremely variable, there is no point in regulating BPL emissions down to a reasonable level because in some locations and at certain times, it will be obscured by other noise sources. Imagine if that sort of logic were applied to air and water pollution -- and make no mistake, BPL emissions pollute an irreplaceable natural resource, the radio spectrum.”

While a thorough technical analysis of the FCC’s latest BPL document will take some time, Sumner predicted that the ARRL will file a *Petition for Reconsideration*. “While BPL has failed in the marketplace as a medium for delivering broadband connectivity to consumers, the technology is perceived to have some ‘smart grid’ applications,” he said. “Now is the time to fix the rules, principally by mandatory notching, so that any new entrants will be competing on a level playing field with the existing BPL firms that have recognized the need for notching of the amateur bands.”

Please remit dues to :
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
693 Cliff St.
Quinnesec, Mi. 49876

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
Call Sign: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone: _____
ARRL Member? Yes _____ **No** _____

Annual dues are due in January.
Please make check payable to Mich-A-Con ARC
Annual dues for Full Membership - Single \$20 __ * Family \$30 __
Repeater Only \$10 __ **

If family membership, please list additional names and call signs: _____

*** The dues for NEW members are prorated - you only pay for the remainder of the year! Please remit \$1.67 per month for a Single membership or \$2.50 per month for a Family membership.**

California Ham Killed in Shooting Spree

from:

The ARRL Letter for October 20, 2011

10/17/2011

A gunman, apparently enraged over a custody dispute with his ex-wife, walked into a hair salon in Seal Beach, California on October 12. Scott Evans Dekraai allegedly opened fire in the salon, killing eight people, including his ex-wife. David Caouette, N6DAC -- who was waiting outside the salon in his car -- was killed in the rampage. He was 64.

“He was shot in his very recognizable off road-ready Land Rover Discovery while sitting in the parking lot on his way into his favorite restaurant,” Darrin Simmons, W7UNI, told the ARRL. Simmons, who called himself Caouette’s best friend, said that he and Caouette were off road driving instructors: “We have been taking customers out on free off road trips since 2003. Back in late 2007, we had some trouble communicating with CB radios in Big Bear. I was fed up with not being able to contact my team that was staggered throughout the line of 30 vehicles. Soon after that, in March 2008, I contacted Gordon West, WB6NOA, and he got us into a ham radio licensing class. I remember it well; it was a rainy weekend and Gordon had us all in the garage on one of the days. That was quite a sight. Since then, we have had many, many off road trips with a core group of ham radio operators and have loved every minute of it. We will miss Dave with all our hearts.”

Ed Testa, KI6OJV, a longtime friend of Caouette’s, [told *The Orange County Register*](#) that Caouette “was in the wrong place at the wrong time and had no way to defend himself. We are just in disbelief that he could have been involved in this tragedy.” Testa said that he had heard that Caouette was visiting one of the restaurants next to the salon where the shooting occurred.

According to *The Orange County Register*, Caouette had worked at Land Rover Mission Viejo starting around 2003 as a salesman. He left that job several years ago, but kept in touch with several friends he met at the dealership in weekend off-road events. “We were the gang of four -- Dave, me, Rich Guzman, KR1CHG, and Darrin Simmons,” he said. “Dave was the leader. He knew all the trails, and he was always at the front of the pack.”

KCBS -- the CBS owned-and-operated television station in Los Angeles -- [reported](#) that Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said that the deadly rampage started at 1:20 PM when Dekraai, 41, walked into Salon Meritage with the intent to murder his ex-wife Michelle Fournier and any other people who may have been present. He was wearing a bullet proof vest and armed with three handguns -- a 9 mm pistol, a .44 magnum and a .45 caliber pistol. “He walked through the salon shooting anyone close enough to hit,” Rackauckas said, calling the incident a “two-minute massacre.” By 1:21 PM, Rackauckas said Dekraai walked through the salon, methodically executing employees and customers. The victims were shot up close repeatedly. Dekraai allegedly stopped to reload when his ammunition ran out. He then continued firing as people lay dying, according to authorities. “Dekraai shot victim after victim, executing people by shooting them in the head and chest,” Rackauckas said. According to the DA, Dekraai then walked out of the salon and allegedly executed the driver of a Range Rover parked next to him.

A police officer saw Dekraai leaving the area as police were responding to reports of gunfire. He was arrested about half a mile away and is the sole suspect in the rampage. Dekraai made his first appearance in Orange County Superior Court on October 15, but his arraignment on eight counts of murder and one count of attempted murder was continued to November 29. Rackauckas has announced that he will be seeking the death penalty for Dekraai.

Caouette is survived by his wife Paula and three children. A [memorial service](#) is planned for 4-8 PM October 17 at Patty’s Place Restaurant, 500 Pacific Coast Hwy, Seal Beach, California. -- *Thanks to The Orange County Register, KCBS and Darrin Simmons, W7UNI, for the information*

Club Meetings:

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Dickinson County Library at 7:00 PM. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

The URL for the Mich-A-Con ARC web site is:
<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

Previous editions of Mich-A-Con RF can be accessed by a link on the news page.

The ARRL DX Bulletin on the Upcoming Activities page is updated each Thursday and the contests section is updated on a monthly basis.

Club Officers:

President:
Tom Martin, W8JWN
(906) 774-5463
tmartin@chartermi.net

Vice President:
Scott Jarmusch KA8TFE
s_jarmusch@yahoo.com

Secretary:
Paul Schultz KD8KUF
(906) 774-8900
pauls@schultzequipment.com

Treasurer:
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
(906) 774-8383
wb8ebs@yahoo.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2011 were payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application - Renewal form when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to : Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Burt Armbrust WB8EBS at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The Next Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue November 8th 2011. It will be held in the Dickinson County Library at 7 PM

MICH-A-CON RF

Mich-A-Con ARC
c/o Stephen Skauge
213 South Angeline
Ishpeming, Mi 49849